

News Release

Office of Councilmember Rose Herrera

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Herrera: Measure B - Mend It, Don't End It.

Proposal fixes disability concern, preserves voter-approved Measure B reforms.

SAN JOSE, CA – Today, Councilwoman Rose Herrera proposed amendments to resolve complications with disability definitions in Measure B, and provide a window for veteran police officers to return, while preserving the intent of San Jose's landmark pension reforms.

"Measure B is already saving the public \$25 million annually," said Herrera, "which has helped the city provide critical public services, including funding for Police Officers."

"We need to preserve those reforms, not abandon them," Herrera continued. "It's a big reform. It's not unexpected that we would need to make adjustments. The small fixes to Measure B that I am proposing will correct some problems without overturning the reforms that nearly 70% of voters approved," said Herrera.

Measure B was a comprehensive reform to control San Jose's spiraling pension costs. Like many significant reforms, policies need to be corrected or adjusted from time to time.

The definition of disability left some academy graduates worried the city would not be able to grant them disability if they were injured on duty. This proposal will protect officers by ensuring San Jose's disability definition aligns with CalPERS standards used by most departments.

Some veteran officers left as a result of misinformation about Measure B - but they remain committed to San Jose and would like to return. There are estimates that as many as 40 officers would like to return, but currently can only return under Tier 2. This proposal would create a temporary "Right of Return" for veteran police officers to return to duty without losing their Tier 1 status.

"These small changes will fix the problem," said Herrera. "We need to face the problems head on, and fix them to ensure the reforms work the way they were intended."

"We should not, however, disenfranchise voters by tearing Measure B apart. It would be irresponsible to go back to a system that was breaking the city budget and putting all city services at risk," Herrera concluded.

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The proposal will be heard by the Rules Committee 2PM this Wednesday April 2, and would require voter approval.

About Councilmember Rose Herrera

Councilmember Rose Herrera represents District 8 in the City of San José. Councilmember Herrera currently Chairs the Community and Economic Development Committee, the VTA Audit Committee, Vice Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee, a member of the Mayor's Gang Task Force, the Santa Clara County Transportation Advisory Board, CalTrain Joint Powers Board, a voting delegate to the League of California Cities and the Founder and President of the League of California Cities' Women's Caucus. For more information go to <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district8/>.

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